IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Original)   A network processing device, comprising:

packet processing circuitry adapted to receive an address request from any one of multiple processors in the network processing device, the packet processing circuitry adapted to output the address request to a network and to receive an address reply to the address request; and

the packet processing circuitry adapted to multicast the address reply to multiple ones of the processors at the same time.

2. (Original)   A network processing device according to claim 1 wherein one or more of the multiple processors provide address resolution management that matches IP addresses with Media Access Control (MAC) addresses.

3. (Original)   A network processing device according to claim 1 wherein the packet processing circuitry is located in a line card and the multiple CPUs are located in one or more control cards.

4. (Original)   A network processing device according to claim 1 wherein the address request comprises an Address Resolution Protocol (ARP) request and the address reply comprises an Address Resolution Protocol (ARP) reply.

5. (Original)   A network processing device according to claim 1 including address tables associated with each of the multiple processors, the processors in parallel each adding an IP address and associated Media Access Control address to the associated address tables received in the multicast address reply.

6. (Original)   A network processing device according to claim 1 wherein the packet processing circuitry converts the address reply from one or more unicast packets to one or more multicast packets and sends the multicast packets to each of the processors at the same time.

7. (Original)   A network processing device according to claim 1 including a switch fabric coupled between the packet processing circuitry and the processors, the switch fabric

including separate egress ports for separately sending the same address reply to each one of the processors.

8. (Original)   A method for updating addresses, comprising:

sending the packet out with the first address to another network device;

receiving an address request from one or more of the applications or processors for a second address associated with the first address;

sending the address request over a network;

receiving an address reply from the network identifying the second address associated with the first address; and

broadcasting the address reply to multiple ones of the applications or processors at the same time.

9. (Original)   A method according to claim 8 including using an Address Resolution Protocol (ARP) to send the address request and receive the address reply.

10. (Original) A method according to claim 9 including broadcasting the ARP reply to the multiple applications or processors by designating the ARP reply packets as multicast packets.

11. (Original) A method according to claim 8 including individually updating address tables associated with each one of the applications or processors with the second address from the second address from the address reply.

12. (Original) A method according to claim 8 wherein the first address is an Internet Protocol address and the second address is a Media Access Control (MAC) address.

13. (Currently Amended)   A method according to claim 8 including broadcasting the address reply from a line card in a network processing device to the multiple applications or processors in one or more control cards in the same network processing device.

14. (Original) A method according to claim 8 including receiving the packet with the first address from an IP network and sending the address request to endpoints in an Ethernet network.

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15. (Currently Amended)   A network processing device, comprising:

multiple processors for controlling operations in the network processing device; and

packet processing circuitry adapted to detect unicast control packets from a network

and convert ~~the~~ a detected unicast control packet ~~packets~~ into a multicast control packet

~~packets~~ that is ~~are~~ relayed in parallel to the multiple processors at the same time.

16. (Original) A network processing device according to claim 15 wherein the control

packets comprise address resolution protocol packets.

17. (Currently Amended)   A network processing device according to claim 16

including multiple network interfaces each coupled to different ports and adapted to detect

replies to address resolution ~~request s~~ requests and broadcast the detected ~~relies~~ replies to the

multiple processors.

18. (Currently Amended)   A network processing device according to claim 16

including address tables associated with each one of the multiple processors, the processors

updating the associated address tables with an address contained in the address resolution

protocol reply packets ~~reply~~ multicast from the packet processing circuitry.

19. (Original) A network processing device according to claim 15 including a switch

fabric having individual egress ports coupled to each one of the multiple processors, each one

of the egress ports sending control packets from the packet processing circuitry in parallel to

the multiple processors at the same time.